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823 The Basin has often been referred to by western writers as "the Eden of the Flowery Republic," or the "Garden of Asia." By the Chinese themselves, it is popularly called the "Tien Fu," which literally means the "Treasury of Heaven." Although these 241 names may appear exaggerated, they do suggest the agricultural 433 richness and the amazing diversity of the products of the Basin. Normally, Szechuan Basin leads all China in the production of corn and rape. It holds second place as a producer of rice, potatoes, and silk; fifth place, as a producer of wheat; and sixth, as a producer of millet, kaoliang, and soy beans. The Basin has been for decades unchallenged as a producer of such internationally known products as tung oil, bristles, herbs, Cho Tsai (pickled vegetables), Wu Pei Tze, and Nanmu (lumber).

The agricultural richness of the Basin and the important role it now plays in China's present war effort are demonstrated by one significant fact. The Basin alone contributes about 60 per cent of the total food supply for the entire Chinese fighting force, comprising over five million men. The Basin is truly a granary of all free China.

314 In forestry land use, the Basin normally produces about 433 a third of the total annual production of tung oil for all China. This product constitutes a critical cash crop for farmers in many parts of the Basin, particularly in the hilly east and southeast. At present tung oil occupies a vitally important position in the export trade of the Basin. It, alone, comprised about 65 per cent of the Basin's total export trade in 1940.

•[388] Another important forestry product of the Basin is white wax. The Basin normally produces over 90 per cent of the total white wax of China. Although the economic value of this unique forestry product is not great, the spectacular snow-white color of the wax tree in the late Autumn adds much to the picturesqueness of the Basin's agricultural landscape.

[386] Lacquer derived from the varnish tree, has been famous in the Basin ever since the Han dynasty (206 B.C. to 220 A.D.). It still remains one of the Basin's most reputed products.

135 The variety and abundance of strategic minerals in the Basin is second only to its richness in agricultural and forestry products. Today the Basin leads all China in the production of brine salt. Its iron reserve ranks second and its coal reserve ranks third in the country, but it is at present the leading

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Tung oil is widely used in the modern industrial world. It has been proved particularly invaluable in making high grade paints, in boat-building, and in the manufacturing of many other water-proof products. The refuse cake, chemically a complete fertilizer, is valued highly by the farmers of the Basin for fertilization purposes. It is used especially for the dry crop fields, such as corn, kaoliang, and other crops, but is very seldom applied to the rice-fields. It is reported that these tung-cake fertilizers are particularly suitable to the corn crop.[1] The shells of the tung seed, together with rice and soy bean stalks, burned and treated, are commonly used to prepare a cheap soap for the local farming families.

China now produces about 85 per cent of the total world supply of Tung oil, and the production of Szechuan Basin alone accounts for about 40 per cent of the total tung oil export of all China. The best customer was the United States, which, before the war, took on an average about half of the total production. Other customers were Germany, with about 25 per cent of the total; England, with about 15 per cent; and France, Italy, and Japan, each with about 5 per cent of the total annual export.

From the standpoint of the agricultural economy of the Basin, the production of tung oil is vitally significant. Even apart from the huge amount of cash income it brings in the export market, the value of the refuse cake for fertilization, and other industrial purposes, such as the manufacturing of soap, the total value of the Tung tree to the farmers of the Basin is incalculable. Hence, the Bureau of Agricultural Research of Szechuan has recently launched an ambitious ten-year expansion program to boost the Basin's Tung-tree production. It aims to increase the present yearly production of oil from 400,000 quintals to 1,000,000 quintals. At the same time, the Foreign Trade Commission together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have a five-year plan for increasing tung-oil production in Szechuan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kweichow, and Kwangsi to 650,000 quintals per year. In addition to existing Tung trees, according to the five-year plan, Szechuan is to plant Tung trees on an additional 500,000 mow of land as a necessary step in the expansion program.[2]

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[1] Y. J. Hsiao, "A Study of the Agricultural Practices of Szechuan," Reconstruction Weekly, IV, No. 7 (1933), 6.

[2] Bureau of Agricultural Research of Szechuan, Annual Report (1940), p. 76.

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TABLE 13

PRODUCTION OF TUNG OIL IN SZECHUAN (1936)

414
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388

Name of District	Total Amount (In Piculs	Per Cent of Total
Ning-Shui	185,000	24.2
Chung-Hsien	140,000	18.3
Yun-Yang	100,000	13.1
Wan-Hsien	60,000	7.8
Siu-Shan	50,000	6.5
Peng-Tu	40,000	5.5
Feng-Chieh	20,000	2.6
Pu-Hsi	10,000	1.3
Liang-Shan	10,000	1.3
Chang-Shou	10,000	1.3
Shih-Chu	10,000	1.3
Pei-Ling	10,000	1.3
Ho-Chuan	8,000	1.0
Yu-Yang	8,000	1.0
Hsuan-Han	6,000	.7
Lu-Hsien	6,000	.7
Ta-Chu	6,000	.7
Fu-Shan	5,000	.6
Kai-Hsien	5,000	.6
Tien-Chiang	5,000	.6
Nan-Chuan	5,000	.6
Kai-Chiang	4,000	.5
Wu-Sheng	4,000	.5
Ta-Hsien	4,000	.5
I-Ping	4,000	.5
Lo-Shan	4,000	.5
Ping-Shan	4,000	.5
Chiang-Tsin	3,000	.3
Ho-Chiang	3,000	.3
Chu-Hsien	3,000	.3
Yen-Ting	3,000	.3
Si-Chung	3,000	.3
Kuang-An	3,000	.3
Wan-Yuan	3,000	.3
Nan-Chung	3,000	.3
Yung-Hsien	2,000	.2
Pa-Hsien	2,000	.2
Chiang-Yu	2,000	.2
Siu-Ning	2,000	.2
Peng-Hsi	2,000	.2
Nan-Pu	2,000	.2
Peng-Shui	1,000	.1
Chien-Chiang	1,000	.1
Chi-Chiang	1,000	.1
Total	[illegible]	100.0